



Metropolitan Planning Organization
for the Miami Urbanized Area

Transportation Voice *Regional Movements*

Winter 2004

The South Florida Regional Transportation Authority Is Born!

On July 1, 2003, the Florida Legislature with the signature of Governor Jeb Bush transformed the Tri-County Commuter Rail Authority into the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA). The SFRTA is a nine-member body composed of two members (one elected and one non-elected) appointed by each county commission, and three gubernatorial appointments, including one from the Florida Department of Transportation.

Their mission is to coordinate, develop and implement a viable regional transportation system in South Florida by cooperating with all levels of govern-

ment, private enterprise, and citizens in the community. Among the SFRTA's short term goals are to create a Smart Card for regional fare collection, to develop a one-stop trip planning mechanism through the Customer Information Network (CIN), to implement a regional marketing program, and to analyze the potential of regional Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and commuter rail expansion. The SFRTA will also facilitate cooperative initiatives among the region's major transit providers such as Miami-Dade Transit (MDT), Broward County Transit (BCT), and Palm Tran.



SFRTA Board of Directors

Michael D. Masanoff, Chair
Allen C. Harper, Vice Chair
Barbara Carey-Schuler, Ed.D.
James A. Cummings
Marie Horenburger
Jeff Koons
John Martinez, P.E.



Metropolitan Planning Organization Staff

The MPO's *Quarterly Newsletter* has changed its name to the *Transportation Voice*, and will continue to be published on a quarterly basis.

Dial 511 for Traffic Updates

5 11 is an easy new phone service for traffic updates and is part of the nationwide Intelligent Transportation Service (ITS). Just dial 511 on your touch-tone phone, and follow the prompts to the automated system to get the information you need. With 511 you can get the latest news including:

- ♦ Up-to-the-minute traffic on requested routes and roadways
- ♦ A complete listing of major expressways and roadways within Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties
- ♦ Information in both English and Spanish
- ♦ Access 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- ♦ Coming soon: public transit information



Approximately 3,000 people use this system every day.

Inside this issue...

<i>Innovative Regional Transportation Alternatives</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Projects in the Works</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Get Involved</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Calendar of Events</i>	<i>4</i>

Innovative Regional Transportation Alternatives

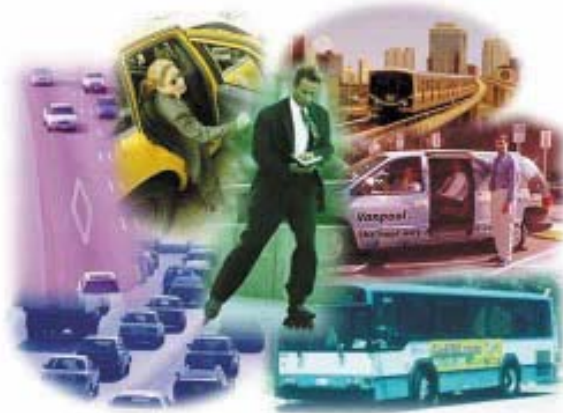
South Florida Commuter Services

As traffic congestion on South Florida roadways increase, the South Florida Commuter Services (SFCS) offers a range of programs geared to encourage the use of ridesharing to ease traffic congestion in the Tri-County area.

SFCS's mission is to improve the quality of life in South Florida by reducing the number of single occupant vehicles on the road through ridesharing. The program provides a number of free services that include:

- ♦ *Carpool/Vanpool Ride Matching*
- ♦ *South Florida Call Center*
- ♦ *The Emergency Ride Home Program (ERH)*
- ♦ *Employer Transportation Programs*

Contact South Florida Commuter Services at 1-800-234-RIDE or visit www.1800234RIDE.com for additional information.



Intelligent Transportation

The South Florida Regional ITS Coalition is a new group made of municipal, county, regional and state agencies. The Coalition meets to ensure compatible implementation of Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) components.

The individual agencies are in varying stages of implementing ITS technology, including road sensors, closed circuit television cameras (CCTV), dynamic message signs, ramp-signals and highway advisory radio. The Coalition's mission is "to serve as a resource-sharing forum that leads to coordinated planning, implementation and operation of ITS to facilitate regional mobility."

Transit Connections

Several transit agencies provide inter-county connections as follows:

SFRTA (Tri-Rail): operates the 71-mile commuter rail system linking Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach Counties. For more information on fares, schedules and destinations log on to www.tri-rail.com.

Miami-Dade Transit (MDT): offers several connecting Metrobuses to Broward and Monroe Counties (for information about schedules and routes, log on to www.miamidade.gov/transit).

- ♦ **Route 3**
- ♦ **Route K**
- ♦ **Route V**
- ♦ **Route 301**

South Florida Vanpool Program

The South Florida Vanpool Program (SFVP) has been in operation since 1998. This year, 70 vanpools are active, an increase of over 30% compared to last year. The program serves Monroe, Broward, Palm Beach and Miami-Dade Counties, and is managed by the Miami-Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

During the 2003 calendar year, the program helped eliminate over 195,000 trips from our area highways, reducing vehicular travel by over 5.5 million miles. The program has also helped improve regional air quality and reduce gasoline consumption. In July, 2003, the Miami-Dade MPO received the "2003 Wheels in Motion" Award from South Florida Commuter Services for its leadership in promoting transportation alternatives for Miami-Dade County.



Broward County Transit (BCT): offers several routes that connect to Miami-Dade County (see www.broward.org/bct for schedule and route information).

- ♦ **Route 1**
- ♦ **Route 2**
- ♦ **Route 9**
- ♦ **Route 18**
- ♦ **Routes 6 & 15 stop at the county line**

Regional Projects in the Works

I-75 Master Plan

Once a new, high speed facility, now drivers traveling between S.R. 826 (Palmetto Expressway) and I-595 experience excessive backups during daily peak commute hours.

In 1998 the Florida Department of Transportation began to develop a Master Plan of improvements on I-75 designed to alleviate congestion. The Master Project Plan also identifies costs and provides a time frame for project implementation.

The alternatives include reversible express lanes in the median, modifications to various interchanges, a new interchange in Miami Lakes, auxiliary lanes between interchanges, and a transitway between Sawgrass Mills and the Palmetto Metrorail station.



Proposed I-75 Transitway

Creating a Transit "Bridge"

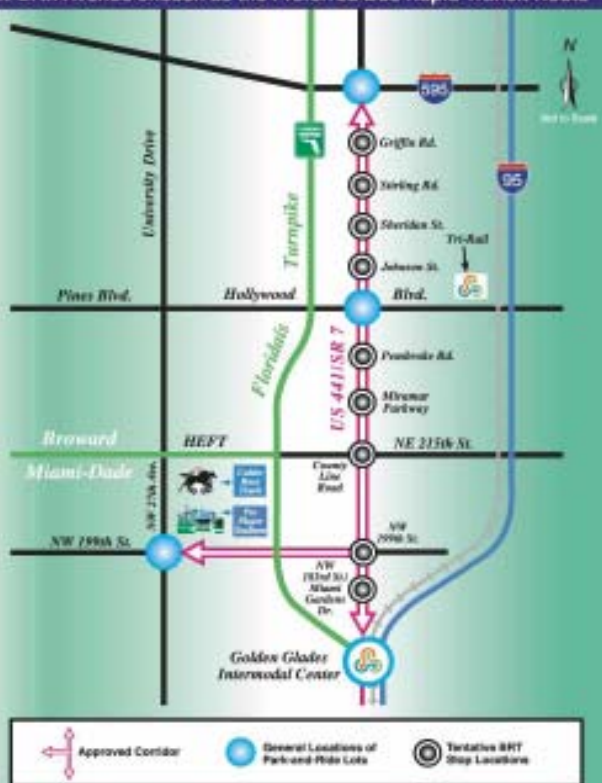
The Transit "Bridge" project intends to link two important transit corridors: Miami-Dade's

North Corridor (NW 27 Avenue) and Broward's Central Corridor (State Road 7). The Broward County MPO has

given the green light to advance a rapid bus transit system operating along State Road 7, from I-595 to the Golden Glades Intermodal Center and connection to NW 27 Avenue. With this "Bridge" they will add another link between Miami-Dade and Broward's transit systems to facilitate moving commuters across county lines.

Preliminary cost estimates for construction is \$29.6 million with annual operating costs of \$5.2 million, which include buses, real-time arrival information, signal prioritization, and needed roadway work.

US 441/State Road 7 with an East-West connection to NW 27th Avenue chosen as the Preferred Bus Rapid Transit Route



Regional LRTP

In order to address regional Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) issues, the three MPO's have agreed that each will produce a section on regionalism in their respective Year 2030 LRTP documents. The chapters on regionalism, still under development, are expected to include information on: Goals; Public Involvement; Travel Demand Model Review; Needs Assessment; Non-Motorized Transportation Modes; and Air Quality.

Along the FEC

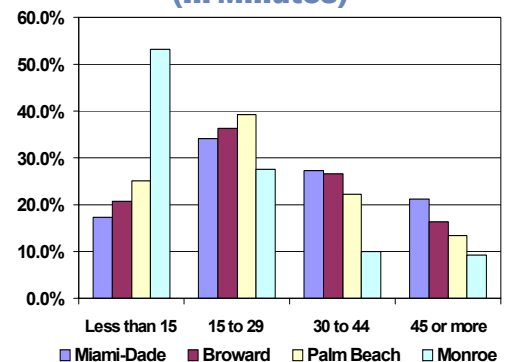
The FEC Railroad Corridor presents a real opportunity for addressing the region's urban mobility needs.

It traverses many of the region's core downtowns. SFRTA plans to advance the Master Planning of the FEC Corridor by spearheading a cooperative initiative to explore needs and options to introduce transit in this corridor.

Metrorail's Future Leg

Once constructed, Metrorail's North Corridor will be a 9.5-mile heavy rail extension of Metrorail that will extend along NW 27 Avenue from the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Metrorail station to the Broward/Miami-Dade county line serving Pro Player Stadium. The project includes seven stations and five with park-ride facilities.

Travel Time to Work (In Minutes)



Source: 2000 U.S. Census

Get Involved

Join these MPO Citizen Committees!

- ◆ The Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC)
- ◆ The Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)
- ◆ Transportation Aesthetic Review Committee (TARC)
- ◆ The Freight Transportation Advisory Committee (FTAC)

Contact Elizabeth Rockwell at (305) 375-1881

Send us your ideas on Transportation!

Contact us by e-mail at: mpo@miamidade.gov
www.miamidade.gov/mpo

Calendar of Events

All meetings are held at the Stephen P. Clark Center,
 111 NW First Street unless otherwise noted.

MPO*:	2:00 p.m.	18-Mar	29-Apr	27-May
TPC:	2:00 p.m.	8-Mar	12-Apr	10-May
TPTAC:	10:00 a.m.	3-Mar	7-Apr	6-May
LRP:	2:00 p.m.	30-Mar	27-Apr	25-May
CTAC:	5:30 p.m.	31-Mar	28-Apr	26-May
TARC:	3:00 p.m.	3-Mar	14-Apr	5-May
BPAC**:	7:00 p.m.	24-Mar	28-Apr	26-May

* County Commission Chambers

** South Miami Commission Chambers

All meeting dates are subject to change.

Contact the MPO for room numbers: 305-375-4507

Metropolitan Planning Organization Governing Board

*Planning
the Future of
Transportation!*

Chairperson

Barbara Carey-Shuler, Ed.D.

Voting Members

Bruno A. Barreiro
 Joe. J. Celestin
 Jose "Pepe" Diaz
 Manuel A. Diaz
 Betty T. Ferguson
 Shirley Gibson
 Perla T. Hantman
 Sally Heyman
 William H. Kerdyk
 M. Ronald Krongold
 Joe A. Martinez

Raul Martinez
 Jimmy L. Morales
 Dennis C. Moss
 Dorrin D. Rolle
 Natacha Seijas
 Darryl K. Sharpon
 Jose Smith
 Katy Sorenson
 Rebeca Sosa
 Javier D. Souto

Non-Voting Members (FDOT District 6)

John Martinez, P.E.

Gary L. Donn, P.E.

County Mayor

Alex Penelas

County Manager

George M. Burgess

Surface Transportation Manager

Carlos F. Bonzon, Ph.D., P.E.

MPO Secretariat Director

Jose-Luis Mesa, Ph.D.

Stephen P. Clark Center
 111 NW First Street
 Suite 910
 Miami, FL 33128

